

Assembly Bill No. 2050

CHAPTER 235

An act to amend Section 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to child day care facilities.

[Approved by Governor July 20, 1996. Filed with
Secretary of State July 22, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2050, Alby. Child day care facilities.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of child day care facilities by the State Department of Social Services.

Existing law requires the department to obtain each applicant's criminal record prior to issuing a license, and authorizes the Director of Social Services to grant an exemption from disqualification based on a criminal conviction for a license or special permit, or for employment, residence, or presence in a child day care facility under certain circumstances. Existing law prohibits the granting of an exemption where the conviction is for prescribed offenses involving sexual offenses and other violent felonies.

This bill would also prohibit the granting of an exemption where the person is convicted of a prescribed crime involving sexual offenses for which the offender is required to register with state and local police authorities.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1596.871. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with child day care facility clients may pose a risk to the children's health and safety.

(a) Before issuing a license or special permit to any person to operate or manage a day care facility, the department shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code or arrested for violating Section 245, 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a, or prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history

information shall include the full criminal record, if any, of those persons. No fee shall be charged by the Department of Justice or the department for the fingerprinting of an applicant who will serve six or fewer children or any family day care applicant for a license, or for obtaining a criminal record of an applicant pursuant to this section. If it is found that the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has been convicted of a crime, other than a minor traffic violation, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of that fact and the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the applicant and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact.

(b) In addition to the applicant, this section shall be applicable to criminal convictions of the following persons:

(1) Adults responsible for administration or direct supervision of staff.

(2) Any person, other than a child, residing in the facility.

(3) Any person who provides care and supervision to the children.

(4) Any staff person or employee who has frequent and routine contact with the children. In determining who has frequent contact, any volunteer who is in the facility shall be exempt unless the volunteer is used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care and supervision of children in care. In determining who has routine contact, staff and employees under direct onsite supervision and who are not providing direct care and supervision or who have only occasional or intermittent contact with clients shall be exempt.

(5) If the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer, other person serving in like capacity, or a person designated by the chief executive officer as responsible for the operation of the facility, as designated by the applicant agency.

(6) If the applicant is a local educational agency, the president of the governing board, the school district superintendent, or a person designated to administer the operation of the facility, as designated by the local educational agency.

(7) Additional officers of the governing body of the applicant, or other persons with a financial interest in the applicant, as determined necessary by the department by regulation. The criteria used in the development of these regulations shall be based on the person's capability to exercise substantial influence over the operation of the facility.

(8) This section does not apply to adult volunteers or adult staff employed by the applicant on an intermittent basis for less than 10 days per month, provided that these adults are under constant supervision by adults who meet the requirements of this section.

(9) This section does not apply to employees of child care and development programs under contract with the State Department of Education who have completed a criminal records clearance as part of an application to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and who possess a current credential or permit issued by the commission, including employees of child care and development programs that serve both children subsidized under, and children not subsidized under, a State Department of Education contract. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall notify the department upon revocation of a current credential or permit issued to an employee of a child care and development program under contract with the State Department of Education.

(10) This section does not apply to employees of a child care and development program operated by a school district, county office of education, or community college district under contract with the State Department of Education who have completed a criminal records clearance as a condition of employment. The school district, county office of education, or community college district upon receiving information that the status of an employee's criminal record clearance has changed shall submit that information to the department.

(c) (1) Subsequent to initial licensure, any person specified in subdivision (b) and not exempted from fingerprinting shall, as a condition to employment, residence, or presence in a child day care facility be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal conviction. The licensee shall submit these fingerprints to the Department of Justice not later than four calendar days following employment, residence, or initial presence in the child day care facility.

(2) These fingerprints shall be on a card provided by the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of obtaining a permanent set of fingerprints. Fingerprints not submitted to the Department of Justice, as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency and the fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing. Within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of the criminal record information, as provided in this subdivision. If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the licensee and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact within 15 calendar days of receipt of the fingerprints. If new fingerprints are required for processing, the Department of Justice shall, within 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of the fingerprints, notify the licensee that the fingerprints were illegible.

(3) Except for persons specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the licensee shall endeavor to ascertain the previous



employment history of persons required to be fingerprinted under this subdivision. If it is determined by the department, on the basis of fingerprints submitted to the Department of Justice, that the person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor, or has been convicted of an offense specified in Section 243.4, 273a, 273d, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or has been convicted of a felony, the State Department of Social Services shall notify the licensee to act immediately to terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the child day care facility, or bar the person from entering the child day care facility. The department may subsequently grant an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). If the conviction was for another crime except a minor traffic violation, the licensee shall, upon notification by the State Department of Social Services, act immediately to either (1) terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the child day care facility, or bar the person from entering the child day care facility; or (2) seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The department shall determine if the person shall be allowed to remain in the facility until a decision on the exemption is rendered.

(4) The department may issue an exemption on its own motion pursuant to subdivision (f) if the person's criminal history indicates that the person is of good character based on the age, seriousness, and frequency of the conviction or convictions. The department, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop regulations to establish the criteria to grant an exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(5) Concurrently with notifying the licensee pursuant to paragraph (3), the department shall notify the affected individual of his or her right to seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The individual may seek an exemption only if the licensee terminates the person's employment or removes the person from the facility after receiving notice from the department pursuant to paragraph (3).

(d) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, a conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the department is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, notwithstanding a subsequent order pursuant to Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the Penal Code permitting the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the record of a conviction, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the court in which the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive evidence of the



conviction. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the arrest disposition report certified by the Department of Justice, or documents admissible in a criminal action pursuant to Section 969b of the Penal Code, shall be prima facie evidence of conviction, notwithstanding any other provision of law prohibiting the admission of these documents in a civil or administrative action.

(e) The State Department of Social Services shall not use a record of arrest to deny, revoke, or terminate any application, license, employment, or residence unless the department investigates the incident and secures evidence, whether or not related to the incident of arrest, that is admissible in an administrative hearing to establish conduct by the person that may pose a risk to the health and safety of any person who is or may become a client.

(f) (1) After review of the record, the director may grant an exemption from disqualification for a license or special permit pursuant to subdivision (a), or for employment, residence, or presence in a child day care facility as specified in subdivision (c) if the director has substantial and convincing evidence to support a reasonable belief that the applicant and the person convicted of the crime, if other than the applicant, are of good character so as to justify issuance of the license or special permit or granting an exemption for purposes of subdivision (c). However, no exemption shall be granted pursuant to this subdivision if the conviction was for an offense specified in Section 220, 243.4, or 264.1, subdivision (a) of Section 273a, or subdivision (a) of Section 290, or prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (1) of Section 273a or 273d, or Section 288, 289, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or was a conviction of another crime against an individual specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code.

(2) The department shall not prohibit a person from being employed or having contact with clients in a facility on the basis of a denied criminal record exemption request or arrest information unless the department complies with the requirements of Section 1596.8897.

(g) Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard for this purpose, the Department of Justice shall verify receipt of the fingerprints.

(h) (1) For the purposes of compliance with this section, the department may permit an individual to transfer a current criminal records clearance, as defined in subdivision (a), from one facility to another, as long as the criminal record clearance has been processed through a state licensing district office, and is being transferred to another state licensing district office.

(2) The State Department of Social Services shall hold criminal records clearances in its active files for a minimum of two years after



an employee is no longer employed at a licensed facility in order for the criminal records clearances to be transferred.

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